

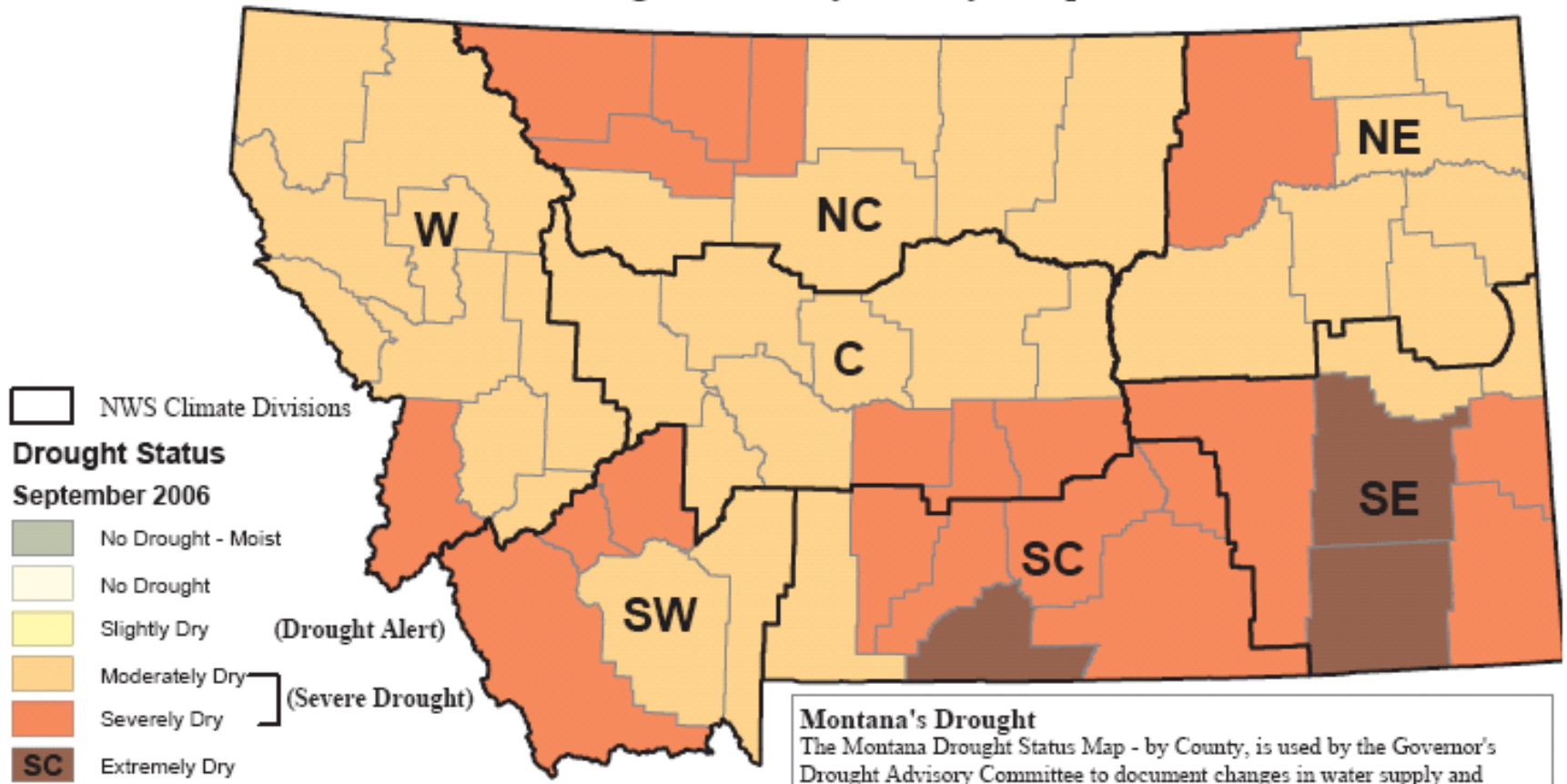
Montana Drought Advisory Committee

**USDA NASS Montana Field
Office**

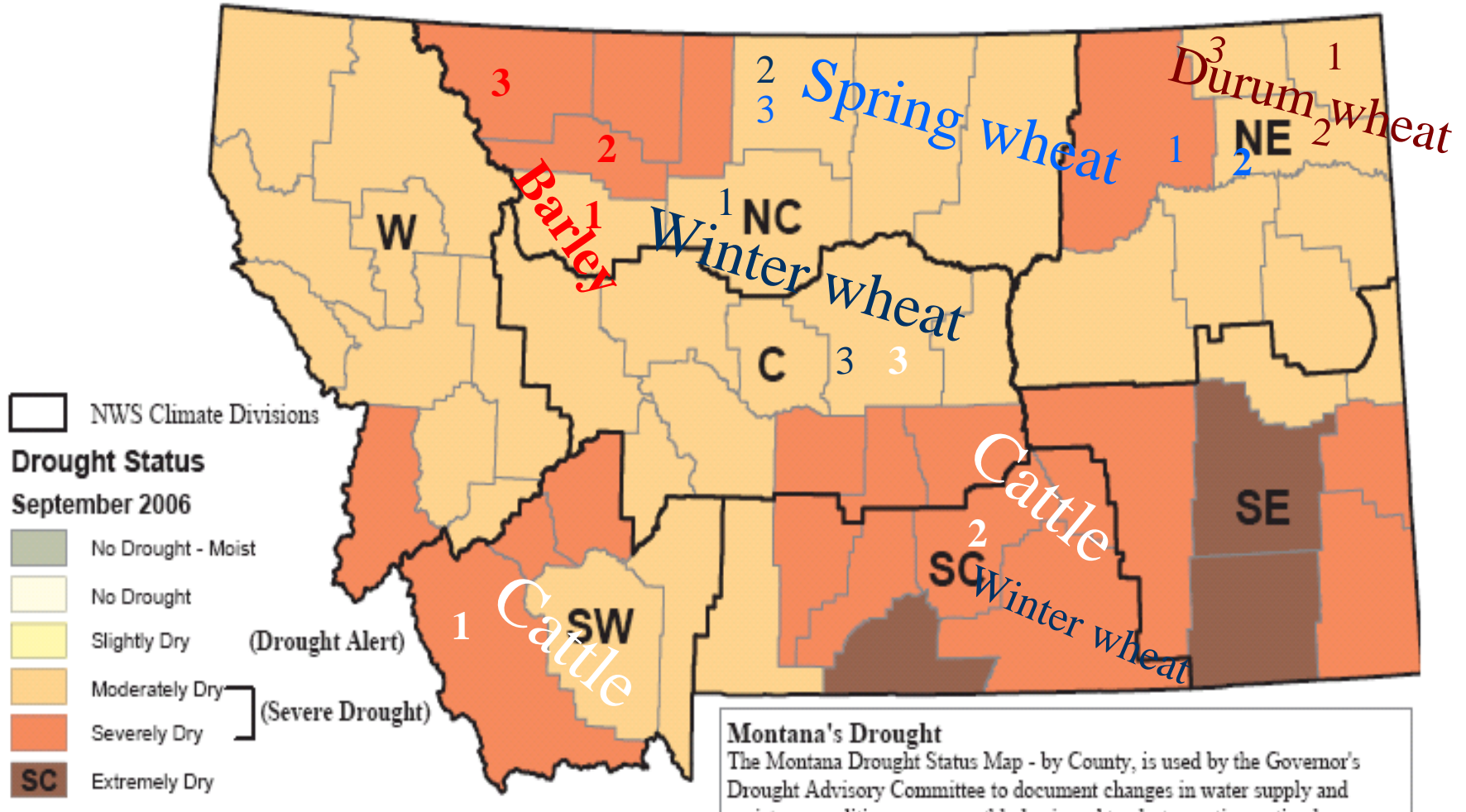
**Peggy Stringer
Director**

October 12, 2006

Montana Drought Status by County - September 19, 2006



Montana Drought Status by County - September 19, 2006





October 12, 2006



Crop Weather Report

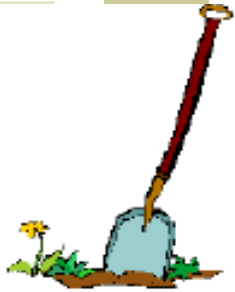
Week Ending September 17, 2006

- ◆ Harvest of small grains virtually completion
- ◆ Winter wheat and oats 100% harvested
 - 97% durum wheat harvested
 - 98% of barley harvested

Spring Planted Crops

Harvest ahead of last year and five-year average, due to hot, dry weather in July and August





Topsoil Moisture Improved with last weeks rainy weather.

September 17, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very short - short	53%	88%	75%	71%
Adequate	44%	12%	24%	27%
Surplus	3%	0%	1%	2%



Subsoil Moisture Improves from Last Month, Same as Last Year, & Close to 5-Yr Average

September 17, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg.
Very short - short	79%	87%	79%	82%
Adequate	20%	13%	20%	17%
Surplus	1%	0%	1%	1%

Winter Wheat Seedings



- ◆ Planting behind last year
- ◆ 4.8 days suitable for field work last week, due to rain and snow
- ◆ Planting near 20% complete



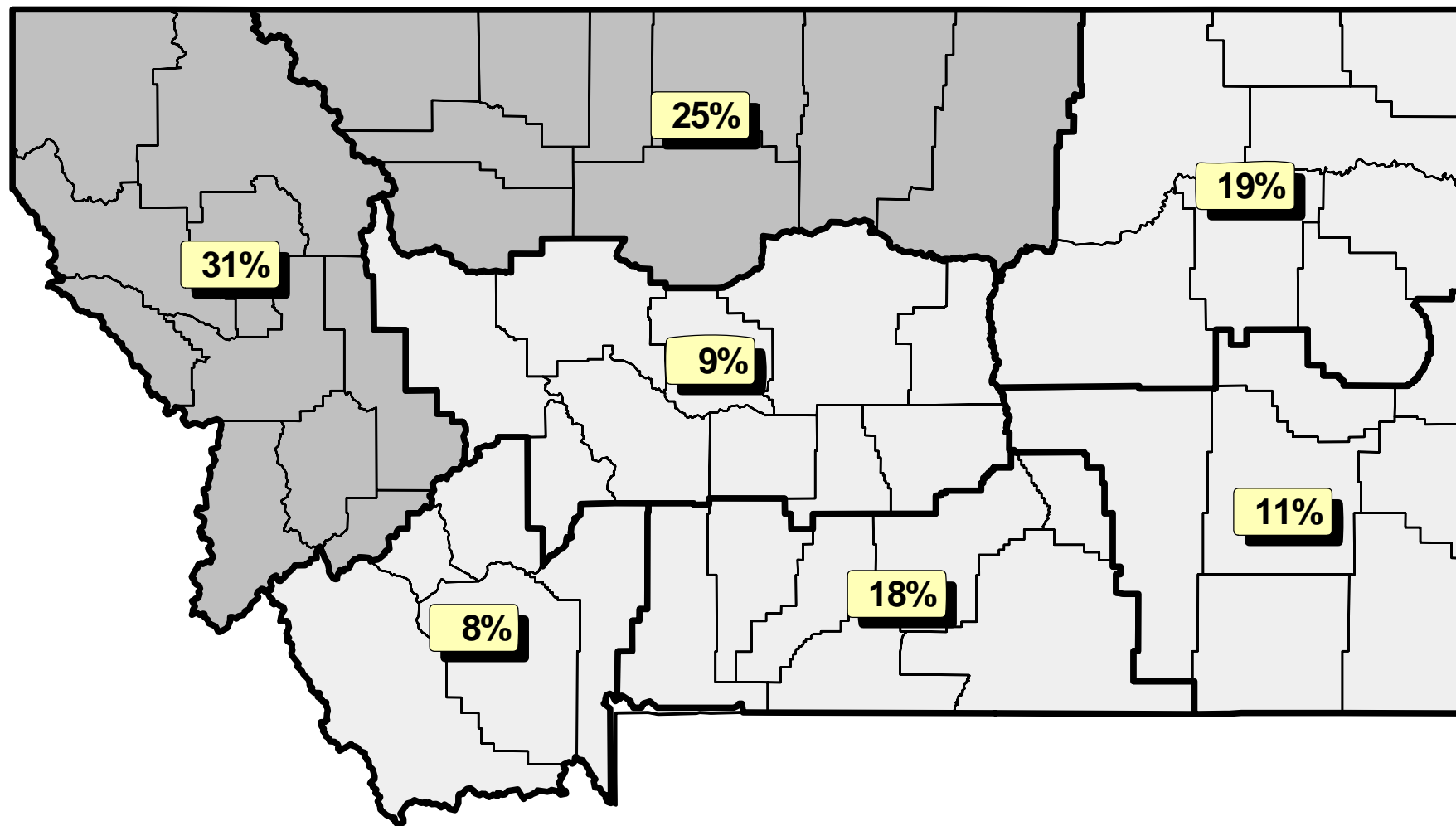
Winter Wheat Seeding Behind Last Year & 5-Year Average

Many farmer waiting for moisture

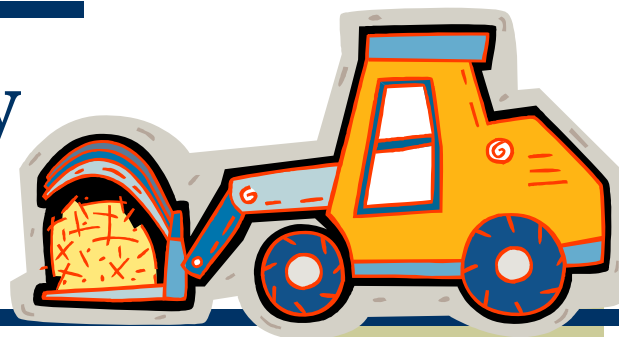
September 17, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter wheat seeded	20%	43%	28%

Percent Winter Wheat Seeded by District

For the week ending September 17, 2006



Hay Harvest Slightly Ahead of Last Year



September 17, 2006	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Alfalfa hay			
Second cutting	97%	95%	93%
Other hay			
Second cutting	94%	93%	88%

Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture feed condition worse than last year, but close to 5-year average
 - Need more rainfall
 - Need more days of cool temperatures
- ◆ Ranchers moving cattle and sheep from summer ranges



Range & Pasture Conditions Worse than Last Year, but Close to 5-Year Average

September 17, 2006	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg.
Very poor-poor	48%	43%	27%	52%
Fair	37%	36%	42%	31%
Good	12%	17%	29%	15%
Excellent	3%	4%	2%	2%



Movement from Summer Ranges

September 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg.
Cattle & calves	30%	26%	25%	27%
Sheep & lambs	21%	18%	26%	29%



To Sum It Up

- ◆ Winter wheat seeding lagging behind last year
- ◆ Small grain harvest virtually complete
- ◆ Range & pasture feed condition declined
- ◆ Moving livestock to winter pastures & ranges
- ◆ Widespread precipitation improve seeding conditions for winter wheat



Small Grains Summary

- ◆ Due out September 29 with production estimates

Is The Montana Monsoon Here Yet?



October 12, 2006